

Texas Map
"Compromise Of 1850"

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The Shape of Texas 1850

SUMMARY:

The independent **Republic of Texas** won the decisive Battle of San Jacinto (April 21, 1836) against Mexico and captured Mexican president Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. He signed the Treaties of Velasco, which recognized the Rio Grande as the boundary of the Republic of Texas. The treaties were then repudiated by the government of Mexico, which insisted that Mexico remained sovereign over Texas since Santa Anna had signed the treaty under coercion, and promised to reclaim the lost territories. To the extent that there was a de facto recognition, Mexico treated the Nueces River as its northern boundary control. A vast, largely-unsettled area lay between the two rivers. Neither Mexico nor the Republic of Texas had the military strength to assert its territorial claim.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo made no mention of the claims of the Republic of Texas; Mexico simply agreed to a Mexico–United States border south of both the "Mexican Cession" and the Republic of Texas claims. After the end of the Mexican–American War, Texas continued to claim a large stretch of disputed land that it had never effectively controlled in present-day eastern New Mexico. New Mexico had long prohibited slavery, a fact that affected the debate over its territorial status,



but many New Mexican leaders opposed joining Texas primarily because Texas's capital lay hundreds of miles away and because Texas and New Mexico had a history of conflict dating back to the 1841 Santa Fe Expedition. Outside of Texas, many Southern leaders supported Texas's claims to New Mexico to secure as much territory as possible for the expansion of slavery.

On December 29, 1845, the Republic of Texas was annexed to the United States and became the 28th state.

After President Zachary Taylor died on July 4, 1850 and was succeeded by Millard Fillmore, Stephen Douglas took the lead in passing Henry Clay's compromise through Congress as five separate bills. Under the compromise, Texas surrendered its claims to present-day New Mexico and other states in return for federal assumption of Texas's public debt of approximately \$10 million, left over from its time as an independent republic (from 1836).

The Compromise of 1850 was a package of five separate bills passed by the United States Congress in September 1850 that defused a political confrontation between slave and free states on the status of territories acquired in the Mexican–American War. It also set Texas's western and northern borders and included provisions addressing fugitive slaves and the slave trade. The compromise was brokered by senator Henry Clay and Democratic senator Stephen A. Douglas, with the support of President Millard Fillmore. The debates over the bill were the most famous in Congressional history, and the divisions devolved into fistfights and drawn guns on the floor of Congress.





Transcript of Compromise of 1850

3. Resolved, That the western boundary of the State of Texas ought to be fixed on the Rio del Norte (Rio Grande River), commencing one marine league from its mouth, and running up that river to the southern line of New Mexico; thence with that line eastwardly, and so continuing in the same direction to the line as established between the United States and Spain, excluding any portion of New Mexico, whether lying on the east or west of that river.

(Note) Texas claimed that the Rio del Norte formed its western border all the way up into what is today the State of Colorado (and thence further north into what is now southern Wyoming). This area encompassed a large portion of New Mexico territory, including virtually all of the territory's populated areas.

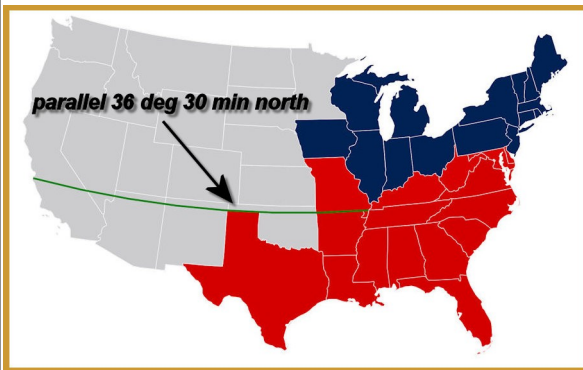
4. Resolved, That it be proposed to the State of Texas, that the United States will provide for the payment of all that portion of the legitimate and bona fide public debt of that State contracted prior to its annexation to the United States, and for which the duties on foreign imports were pledged by the said State to its creditors, not exceeding the sum of dollars, in consideration of the said duties so pledged having been no



longer applicable to that object after the said annexation, but having thenceforward become payable to the United States; and upon the condition, also, that the said State of Texas shall, by some solemn and authentic act of her legislature or of a convention, relinquish to the United States any claim which it has to any part of New Mexico.

An Act proposing to the State of Texas the Establishment of her Northern and Western Boundaries, the Relinquishment by the said State of all Territory claimed by her exterior to said boundaries, and of all her Claims upon the United States, and to establish a territorial Government for New Mexico.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following propositions shall be, and the same hereby are, offered to the State of Texas, which, when agreed to by the said State, in an act passed by the general assembly, shall be binding and obligatory upon the United States, and upon the said State of Texas: Provided, The said agreement by the said general assembly shall be given on or before the first day of December, eighteen hundred and fifty:



FIRST. The State of Texas will agree that her boundary on the north shall commence at the point at which the meridian of one hundred degrees west from Greenwich is intersected by the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, and shall run from said point due west to the meridian of one hun-

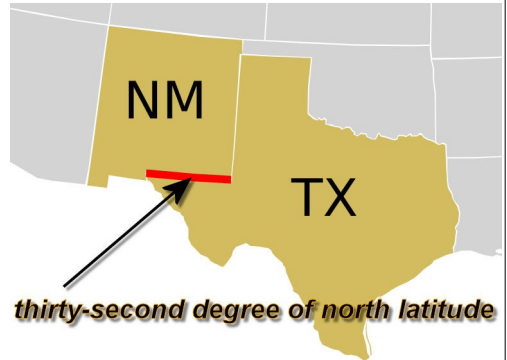
dred and three degrees west from Greenwich; thence her boundary shall run due south to the thirty-second degree of north latitude; thence on the said parallel of thirty-two degrees of north latitude to the Rio Bravo del Norte, and thence with the channel of said river to the Gulf of Mexico.

(Note) *The parallel of 36°30' forms the boundary between the Oklahoma Panhandle and the Texas Panhandle.*

Meridian of one hundred degrees west from Greenwich is intersected by the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude (top of Texas).



and shall run from said point due west to the meridian of one hundred and three degrees west from Greenwich; thence her boundary shall run due south to the thirty-second degree of north latitude; thence on the said parallel of thirty-two degrees of north latitude to the Rio Bravo del Norte (Rio Grande River), and thence with the channel of said river to the Gulf of Mexico.



SECOND. The State of Texas cedes to the United States all her claim to territory exterior to the limits and boundaries which she agrees to establish by the first article of this agreement.

THIRD. (Texas gives up ships, forts, arsenals, custom-houses, custom-house revenue, arms and munitions of war, and public buildings with their sites)

FOURTH. (Summary of Texas to be paid ten million dollars in stock bearing 5% interest, redeemable after 14 years)

FIFTH. (Summary of how the ten million dollars will be paid)

APPROVED, September 9, 1850.



THE RED RIVER

The Spanish named it "Rio Rojo." Frontier travelers called it the Red River of Natchitoches, or the Red River of the Cadodacho, after the Caddo Indians. By the 1830s maps identified it as the Red River.

The Red River links the Great Plains with the Mississippi River Valley. Prairie Dog Town Fork, the main branch, emerges thirty miles south of Tucumcari, New Mexico, crosses into the Texas Panhandle and cuts the Palo Duro Canyon near Amarillo, Texas, turns southeast until it crosses the 100th Meridian, and meanders south of Harmon, Jackson, and

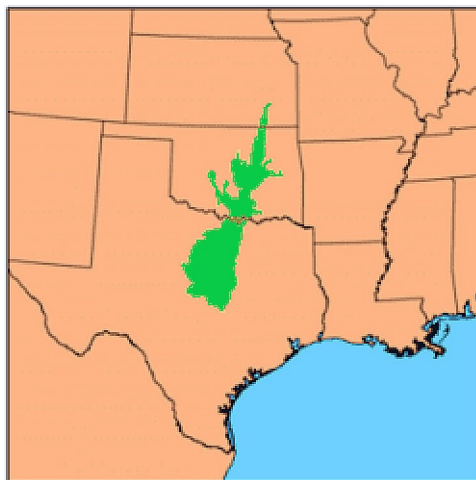
Tillman counties where, just south of Frederick, it joins the North Fork, which originates in Carson County, Texas (at $34^{\circ}42' \text{ N}$, $103^{\circ}07' \text{ W}$).



The Red continues as the south border of Cotton, Jefferson, Love, Marshall, Bryan, Choctaw, and McCurtain counties, curves at the "Great Bend" into Arkansas, and then drops into Louisiana, finally emptying into the Mississippi River (at $31^{\circ}01' \text{ N}$, $91^{\circ}45' \text{ W}$). Capt. Randolph B. Marcy, who identified the source of the North Fork in 1852, estimated the Red's length at 2,100 miles, but later measurements vary between 1,217 to 1,360 miles.

The Red passes through the southwestern Oklahoma plains, with its short native grasses and scrubs, an area suitable for ranching and wheat farming. As the river cuts into gypsum, copper, granite, and red clay formations, the water acquires a red tint and a bitter taste. Annual rainfall of less than twenty-two inches means normal water levels restrict river navigation.

The river also bisects the Cross Timbers vegetation zone from east to west and receives the waters of the Washita River as that stream flows into Lake Texoma. The Kichi and Taovayas tribes had lived in this area long before they were contacted by Europeans.



Cross Timbers Vegetation Zone

Below Lake Texoma the Red River receives water from the rivers draining southeastern Oklahoma through the Coastal Plain. The Clear Boggy, the Blue, and the Kiamichi rivers feed the Red clear, sweet water. Caddo people, with their distinctive mound-building culture, have lived just north of the river in Oklahoma and Arkansas since precontact times.

Spain had begun trading early with the Native groups, and in the early decades of the 1700s French adventurers B  nard de la Harpe and Louis Juchereau de St. Denis traded with people along the river. Beginning with the Enterprise in 1831, steamboats ferried cotton, grain, and passengers between Fort Towson, Fort Washita, and the Gulf of Mexico.



Steamboat Enterprise

From the early seventeenth century Spain and France debated the Red as the boundary separating New Spain and New France. Later, by the **Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819**, the Red became the southern border of the Louisiana Purchase. In 1923 the U.S. Supreme Court established the south bank as the border between Oklahoma and Texas.

*(Note) Signed in 1819 by John Quincy Adams and Luis de Onís, the Adams-Onís Treaty between the United States and Spain gave Florida to the U.S. and established the **Sabine River** as the border between the U.S. and New Spain.*

The formation of Texas was part of a global story. The boundaries of European land claims changed as a result of wars in Europe, revolutions in the colonies, and the birth of the United States. When the French sold Louisiana to America with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, many Americans believed the sale included Texas. These claims were based on La Salle's failed attempt to colonize Texas in the 1680s. The Adams-Onís Treaty put those claims to rest, ceding Texas to Spain. However, many Americans did not agree with the treaty. Some U.S. citizens argued the border should be at the Rio Grande. Many individuals and families from the east settled in Texas illegally, which was still part of Spanish-controlled Mexico.



TEXAS-OKLAHOMA BOUNDARY CONTROVERSIES.

The Red River boundary controversy started when the United States purchased the Territory of Louisiana from France in 1803 during Pres. Thomas Jefferson's administration. Spain and the United States feuded over the exact boundary between Louisiana and New Spain. The Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819 used a map drawn by Scottish explorer John Melish to establish the Red River as the southwestern boundary between the two countries.

(Note) *John Melish (June 13, 1771 - December 30, 1822) was a Scottish mapmaker who published some of the earliest maps of the United States. In 1816 he created the first map of the United States extending to the Pacific Ocean.*



John Melish map of US in 1816



Louisiana Purchase of 1803

(Note) The Kingdom of France had controlled the Louisiana territory from 1699 until it was ceded to Spain in 1762. In 1800, Napoleon, the First Consul of the French Republic, regained ownership of Louisiana as part of a broader project to re-establish a French colonial empire in North America. However, France's failure to put down a revolt in Saint-Domingue, coupled with the prospect of renewed warfare with the United Kingdom, prompted Napoleon to consider selling Louisiana to the United States. **The Sabine River was eventually set as the boundary between Louisiana and Texas (what then was Mexico territory). [Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819]**

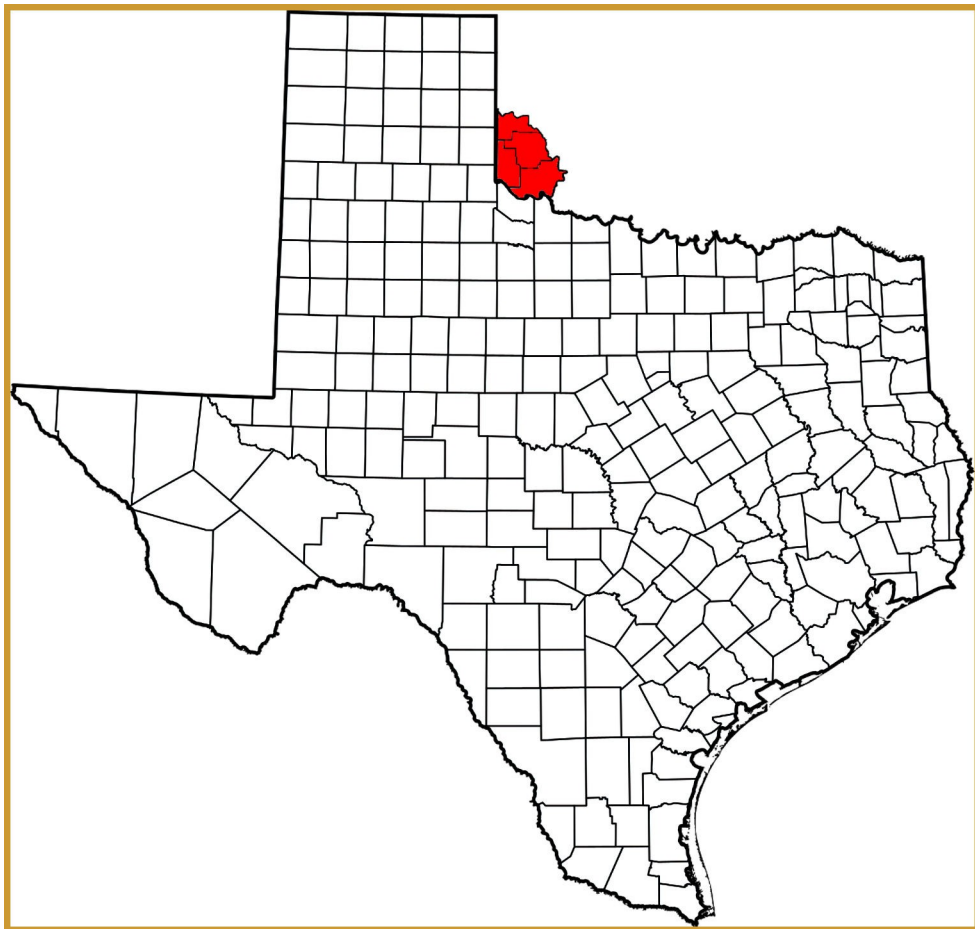
The Louisiana Purchase was the acquisition of the territory of Louisiana by the United States from Napoleonic France in 1803. In return for fifteen million dollars, or approximately eighteen dollars per square mile, the United States acquired a total of 828,000 sq miles. However, France only controlled a small fraction of this area, most of it inhabited by Native Americans; for the majority of the area, what the United States bought was the "preemptive" right to obtain "Indian" lands by treaty or by conquest, to the exclusion of other colonial powers.



Later, the Red River served as an international boundary between the United States and Mexico and, after the Texas Revolution, with the Republic of Texas. After Texas joined the United States in 1845, new doubts arose over the legal boundary line when in 1852 Capt. Randolph Marcy discovered the North Fork of the Red River. Texas claimed the area called Greer County between the North Fork and the main branch. In 1867 federal treaties further complicated the issue by creating a reservation with a southern border, "north of the middle of the main channel" of the Red River, for the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache. The "Greer County War" began. In 1894 the dispute landed before the Supreme Court as the United States v. Texas. In the background hovered the Organic Act of 1890, which created the Territory of Oklahoma.

(Note) *Greer County, a county created by the Texas legislature on February 8, 1860 (and was named for John Alexander Greer, Lieutenant Governor of Texas), was land claimed by both Texas and the United States. The region of Greer County is now in present-day Oklahoma.*

The dispute arose from a map submitted with the Adams–Onís Treaty of 1819. The treaty stated that the boundary between the French claims on the north and the Spanish claims on the south was Rio Roxo de Natchitoches (Red River) until it reached the 100th meridian west as noted on John Melish's map published in 1818. The problem was that the 100th meridian on the Melish map was some 90 miles east of the true 100th meridian and the Red River forked about 50 miles east of the 100th meridian. Texas claimed the land south of the North Fork and the United States claimed the land north of the South Fork, later called the Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River.



Greer County claimed by Texas and US.

Assigned to Oklahoma

After hearing all the testimony and after examining all the documents, the Court held that the central issue was to determine what the negotiators of the Treaty of 1819 had believed the boundary to be at the time they presented the treaty for ratification by both national governments. In the end, the court ruled the old map of John Melish was the central piece of evidence, and the map showed the southern branch to be the understood boundary.

And there the decision stood until 1918 when wildcat oilmen found oil in north Texas. Soon wells were drilled on the Texas side as close to the

river as possible and sometimes actually in the river. Private property owners and spokespersons for the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache asserted that much of the oil was being pumped from the Oklahoma side, and they demanded royalty payments or claimed the wells for themselves. Asserting that the middle of the river to the south bank was Oklahoma land, the State of Oklahoma filed suit in the U.S. Supreme Court against the State of Texas. Not to be left on the sideline, the federal government agreed that while the southern bank of the river was the boundary between Oklahoma and Texas, the federal government controlled the riverbed and any natural resources under it.

The nature of the river itself added to the complexity of the case. The bed of the Red River expanded and contracted through the natural processes of erosion and accretion. Mineral rights aside (there was an abundance of law to sift through to decide who controlled those) the question pertaining to the boundary dispute was "where is the south bank?" Is the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma a fixed one, a set line of demarcation, or is it in a constant state of fluvial change? In a series of rulings in *Oklahoma v. Texas* between the years 1921 through 1924 the Supreme Court handed down these determinations: 1) A cut bank is the relatively permanent elevation of a river that separates the bed from the adjacent upland; 2) Cut banks are permanent and stable enough to serve as fixed boundaries; and 3) For the purposes of fixing the boundary, the south bank is the cut bank of the Red River and thus forms the legal boundary between Oklahoma and Texas.





While none of the sides questioned the ruling, determining the exact location of the south bank required additional efforts. In 1991 the state legislatures of Oklahoma and Texas created **Red River Boundary Commissions** and charged them with establishing a fixed and permanent boundary.

Joined by representatives of the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache, these commissions held a series of public meetings in communities bordering along both sides of the river and in the two state capitals. In spring 1999 both commissions submitted proposed legislation designating "the vegetation line along the south bank of the Red River extending on a line from the 100th Meridian east to Lake Texoma as the northern border of Texas."

The lone exception to the south bank as the northern border of Texas was spelled out under Article II, Section B.1, in which the legislation would declare that in the Texoma area, the boundary would extend from "the intersection of the vegetation line on the south bank with the east bank of Shawnee Creek and continues to the foot of the Denison Dam." Beyond establishing a permanent boundary, the compact requires marking the boundary with visible landmarks.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush signed the legislation into law on May 24, 1999; Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating followed suit on June 4 of the same year. In Washington, D.C., Congress passed Joint Resolution 72 entitling the Red River Boundary Compact. It became federal law on August 31, 2000.



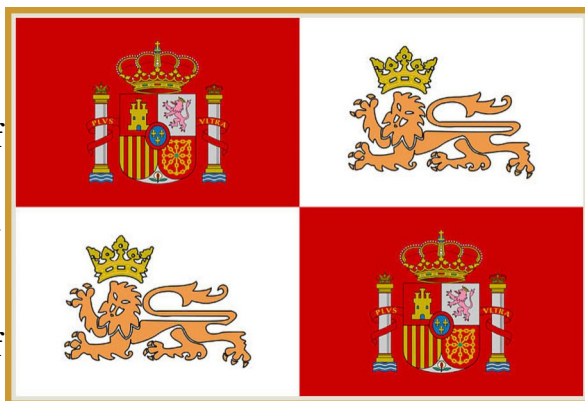
The six flags over Texas 1519 – 1845

The shape of Texas was formed from six different governments, starting in 1519 and ending in 1845, except for the final boundary setting in the year 2000, of the Greer County dispute.

Spain, 1519-1685 and 1690-1821

Texas was at the northernmost tip of Spain's North American empire. During the first period of Spanish occupation, Texas was largely ignored, except for the explorations of a few conquistadors. It wasn't until the late 17th century when France challenged their claims with an expedition led by La Salle that Spain began seriously settling Texas. Around 1810, during the height of Spanish occupation, only about 5,000 Spaniards lived in Texas, most of them small farmers or ranchers. Spain left a lasting legacy that is still noticeable today in language, place names, and one of the largest cities in the United States —San Antonio.

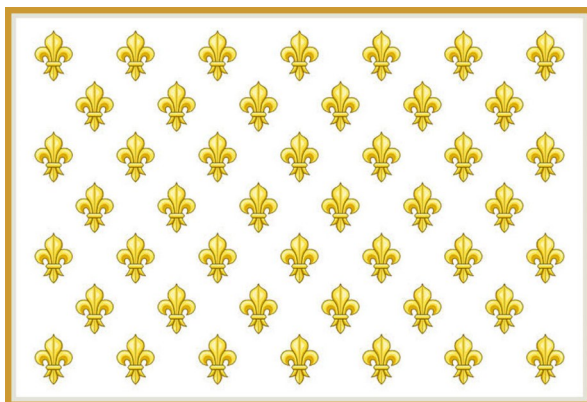
The Flag - Spain had four significant flags during its occupation of North America. The royal banner of Castile and León (pictured), which presents two lions and two castles on a red and white background, is most frequently seen in displays of the Six Flags of Texas in spite of the fact that its usage in Spain ended three years prior to the Spanish claim of Texas.



France, 1685-1690

With support from the King of France, Louis the XIV, in 1684 French explorer Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle sailed for the Americas with four hundred people and four ships. La Salle's mission was to build a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Plagued by bad luck from the start, the failed expedition was a disaster for the French, but La Salle's Texas colonization attempt spurred Spain to refocus their own colonization efforts to prevent Texas from becoming part of France's Louisiana colony.

The Flag - The flag most likely carried by La Salle during his expedition along the Texas coast had a white background covered by fleurs-de-lys which was a simplified version of the French royal flag.



Mexico, 1821-1836

After an 11-year war, Mexico overthrew Spanish colonial rule. Mexico's sparsely populated northern frontier in Texas challenged long-held American Indian claims which led to tensions and attacks. It was also threatened by an expanding United States. To guard against losing Texas, Mexico authorized land agents (empresarios) to recruit settlers for new colonies in Texas, provided that the immigrants swore allegiance to Mexico. The arrangement was filled with conflict from the beginning. In 1836, Anglo-American and Tejano settlers banded together to overthrow Mexican rule.

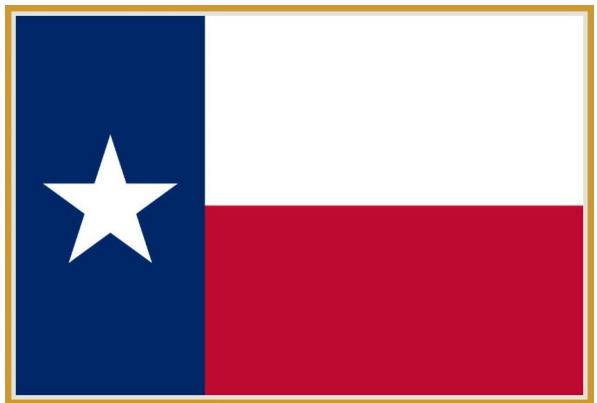
The Flag - Two years after winning their independence, Mexico adopted its first republican flag. Nearly identical to the current flag, it contains vertical green, white, and red stripes that represent the "Three Guarantees"—religion, independence, and union. It also shows an eagle with a serpent in its mouth standing on a cactus, iconography that represents Mexico's Aztec heritage.



Republic of Texas, 1836-1845

Years of conflict between Texans and their Mexican government led to rebellion and revolution. During a tumultuous seven months between the fall of 1835 and spring of 1836, Texans declared, fought for, and won their independence from Mexico. The Republic of Texas emerged as a rowdy frontier nation with its own nine-year historical saga packed with political turmoil, continuing conflict with Mexico and American Indians, a failing economy, and uncertain status. The brief experiment of nationhood ended when Texas became the 28th state of the United States on December 29, 1845.

The Flag - Three official flags flew over the Republic of Texas during its 9-year history. The third, adopted in 1839, is what we now know as the Lone Star Flag. Though basically consistent from its beginnings, the 1933 Texas Flag Act codified and standardized the flag's



design and colors, calling for "blood red, azure blue, and white" which represented bravery, loyalty, and purity. A 1993 follow-up further defined the design of the flag and stipulated that the red and blue colors should be the same as those of the U.S. flag—"Old Glory Red" and "Old Glory Blue."

Confederate States of America, 1861-1865

Most Texans were opposed to any interference from Northern politicians seeking to abolish the institution of slavery. When Abraham Lincoln was elected to the presidency in 1860, Texas joined with other slaveholding states in seceding from the Union and forming the Confederate States of America. Over 70,000 Texans served in the Confederate army. They fought in every theater and almost every battle of the war. Though Robert E. Lee surrendered in Virginia to Union forces in April, 1865, the Confederacy in the West, including Texas, did not surrender until June 2, 1865. On June 19 (Juneteenth), Federal forces arrived in Galveston to occupy Texas, enforce United States law, and begin the process of readmitting Texas into the Union.

The Flag - The Confederate States of America had three flag designs during its existence. The first flag representing the government of the Confederate States of America, commonly referred to as the "Stars and Bars,"

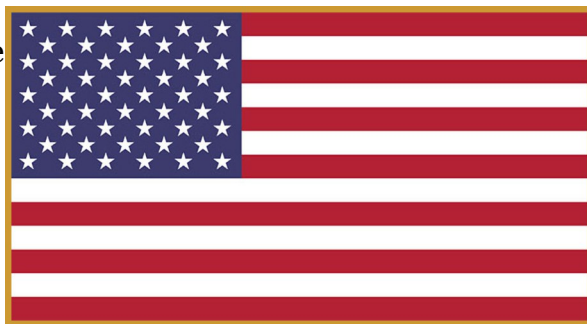


was adopted on March 4, 1861. Patterned after the U.S. Stars and Stripes, it features two large red horizontal stripes above and below a large white stripe, and a blue canton in the upper left bearing a circular pattern of white stars equal in number to the number of states that had seceded from the Union. For many it represents a history of enslavement and repression while to others it is a symbol of patriotic heritage.

United States of America, 1845-1861 and 1865-present

When Texas joined the United States as its 28th state, it joined as a slave state with its attitudes and politics aligned with the South. After 16 years in the Union, Texas seceded and fought in the Civil War as a Confederate state. Following the South's surrender in 1865, Texas and the other Southern states were occupied by Union troops during Reconstruction. Texas had to meet several conditions in order to be readmitted to the Union, including adopting a new state constitution and ratifying the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution, which granted full citizenship and equal rights to those formerly enslaved. Texas was readmitted to the Union on March 30, 1870.

The Flag - Texas entered the Union as the 28th state of the United States. The 28-Star Flag became official on July 4, 1846 and was in use for only one year until Iowa became a state and another star was added. The current 50-Star United States flag



(pictured) is most commonly used in modern displays of the Six Flags.



END – How Texas Got Its Shape

About the Author

Larry W Jones is a songwriter, having penned over 7,700 song lyrics. Published in 22 volumes of island themed, country, cowboy, western and bluegrass songs. The entire assemblage is the world's largest collection of lyrics written by an individual songwriter.

As a wrangler on the “Great American Horse Drive”, at age 68, he assisted in driving 800 half-wild horses 62 miles in two days, from Winter pasture grounds in far NW Colorado to the Big Gulch Ranch outside of Craig Colorado.

His book, “The Oldest Greenhorn”, chronicles the adventures and perils in earning the “Gate-to-Gate” trophy belt buckle the hard way.



Other books published by Larry W Jones:

A Squirrel Named Julie and The Fox Ridge Fox
The Painting Of A Dream
The Boy With Green Thumbs and The Wild Tree Man
Red Cloud – Chief Of the Sioux
Spotted Tail – The Orphan Negotiator
Little Crow – The Fur Trapper's Patron
Chief Gall – The Strategist
Crazy Horse – The Vision Quest Warrior
Sitting Bull - The Powder River Power
Rain-In-The-Face – The Setting Sun Brave
Two Strike – The Lakota Club Fighter
Chief American Horse – The Oglala Councilor
Chief Dull Knife – The Sharp-Witted Cheyenne
Chief Joseph – Retreat From Grande Ronde
The Oregon Trail Orphans
Kids In Bloom Volume 1
Kids In Bloom Volume 2
Kids Animal Pals Volume 1
Kids Animal Pals Volume 2
Bird Kids Volume 1
Bird Kids Volume 2
Garden Kids Volume 1
Garden Kids Volume 2
Folklore Of Jackson Hole
Henny Penny Meets Chicken Little
Delightful Stories For Children
The 1825 Voyage Of HMS Blonde
Illustrated Stories For Young Children
Sea Sagas – Perilous Voyages
Songbirds And Their Stories
The Jungle Book – Mowgli's Brothers
The Jungle Book – Kaa's Hunting
The Jungle Book – Tiger! Tiger!
The Jungle Book – The White Seal
The Jungle Book – Rikki-Tikki-Tavi
The Jungle Book – Toomai of the Elephants
The Jungle Book – Her Majesty's Servants

Other books published by Larry W Jones:

The Oldest Greenhorn – Second Edition
Life On The Mississippi
Songs Of The Seas
Treasure Island
The Wind In The Willows
Alice In Wonderland
Peter Rabbit
The Secret Garden
Heidi
Cynthia Ann Parker – Comanche Bride
Black Beauty
The Call Of the Wild
Uncle Remus and Brer Rabbit
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea
The Goodnight-Loving Trail – A Chuckwagon Saga
Ode To Toulee – From Gosling To Goose
China Clipper – Floatplanes Of Pan Am
Images Of Old England
Range Of A Cowboy
Clipper Ships – Emigrants Passage
Clipper Ships – Wool and Wealth
Clipper Ships – Iron Maidens
Clipper Ships – The Kiwi Connection
Chief War Eagle – Peacemaker Of The Sioux
Ohiyesa – From Sioux To Surgeon
Indian Ways Of Yore – Fables And Fact
Heritage Of An Indian Boy
Daniel Boone On the Cumberland Trail
Davy Crockett Of the Wild Frontier
Jim Bowie – Life Legacy Legend
Sam Houston – Tennessee To Texas
Shackleton – Polar Quest
Death Valley Days – The Manly Trail
Pocahontas – Powhatan Princess
Tecumseh – The Roaming Cherokee
Hunga Tonga – The Volcano!
Otaheite 1769 – Log Of Captain Cook

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